

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
OFFICE OF DEFENSE MOBILIZATION  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

Office of the Director

Honorable Charles A. Wolverton  
Chairman, Committee on Interstate  
and Foreign Commerce  
House of Representatives  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Wolverton:

This is with reference to your letter of August 6th requesting our comments on H. R. 6019, a bill to establish a Telecommunications Policy Committee.

On June 16, 1953, the President issued Executive Order 10460 which, with Executive Order 10461 of June 17th, directed the Director of the Office of Defense Mobilization to assist and advise the President with respect to certain telecommunications functions. These relate to coordinating and developing policies and standards applicable to the executive branch; assuring high standards of telecommunications management within the executive branch; coordinating the development by the executive branch of plans to assure maximum security in times of national emergency with a minimum interference to continuing nongovernmental requirements; assigning radio frequencies under the provisions of section 305 of the Communications Act, and establishing policies and procedures governing their continued use; and finally, developing United States Government frequency requirements.

Executive Order 10460 also directed the Interdepartment Radio Advisory Committee, which has been dealing with assignments of frequencies to government agencies to report to and assist the Director of the Office of Defense Mobilization.

To carry out those functions of the Director relating to the coordination and management of telecommunications functions of executive branch agencies, I recently reestablished the Telecommunications Planning Committee which had been created to assist the former Telecommunications Advisor to the President. Defense Mobilization Order IX-I accomplishing this is attached hereto.

These various actions have been taken to achieve the better coordination and integration of the policies and procedures relating to the telecommunications functions of the President. They have the same objectives which H. R. 6819 seeks to achieve. While we are therefore in full agreement with the objectives of the bill, we do not believe that the establishment of an interagency committee by statute is the most desirable means available. It is our feeling that the executive actions enumerated above will provide the staff assistance necessary to attack immediately those areas of our telecommunication effort which need attention for purposes of national defense, as well as to produce the studies and recommendations which will:

- a) improve management of Government telecommunication, and
- b) modernize our method of managing the national use of the radio frequency spectrum.

It is anticipated the studies will include examination of the present dual authority of the President and the Federal Communications Commission to assign radio frequencies under the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, and perhaps will result in recommendations for legislative action to clarify this problem.

Until it has been concluded that the attainment of the objectives which H.R. 6819 seeks to achieve cannot be met under the above executive actions, we do not believe it appropriate to limit the President's discretion and flexibility of action which he needs to carry on his responsibilities in this area.

For these reasons we would not favor the enactment of the proposed bill. The Budget Bureau advises it has no objection to the submission of this report.

Sincerely yours,

Arthur G. Flemming  
Director

Enclosure